

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1773

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 310

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CI, SOCI

SUBJECT: ST. GEORGE'S SCHOOL

REF: (A) SANTIAGO 7862; (B) SANTIAGO 7831

1. SUMMARY. HOLY CROSS PROVINCIAL FATHER WILLIAM LEWERS SAW PRESIDENT PINOCHET JAN 3. PINOCHET INITIALLY TOOK HARD LINE ON CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH HOLY CROSS WOULD BE PERMITTED TO RETURN TO ST. GEORGE'S SCHOOL BUT REPORTEDLY AGREED IN PRINCIPLE TO SERIES OF REQUESTS MADE BY LEWERS THAT WOULD HAVE GIVEN HOLY CROSS EFFECTIVE CONTROL. GOC AT WORKING LEVEL CONTINUES OBSTRUCTION, BUT LOCAL HOLY CROSS PRIESTS ARE STILL NEGOTIATING. ORDER MAY REQUEST USG INTERVENTION AND GO PUBLIC IF CURRENT NEGOTIATION REACHES DEAD END. END SUMMARY.

2. FATHER LEWERS CALLED ON EMBOFF JAN 6, TOGETHER WITH HOLY CROSS PROVINCIAL TREASURER FATHER WARNER. LEWERS SAID PAPAL NUNCIO HAD SUGGESTED TO HIM POSSIBLE UNSEFULNESS OF CALL ON PINOCHET AND HAD THEN ARRANGED IT, BUT DID NOT ACCOMPANY THEM ON CALL JAN 3. LEWERS SAID HE OPENED MEETING WITH STATEMENT ON ORDER'S GOOD FAITH IN DESIRING RETURN OF ST. GEORGE'S FOR OPENING OF MARCH 1975 SEMESTER; SERVICE TO CHILE OF SCHOOL; INTEREST OF HOLY SEE (AS EXPRESSED BY NUNCIO) AND CHILEAN CHURCH (EXPRESSED BY CARDINAL SILVA) IN RETURN OF SCHOOL TO ORDER; AND ORDER'S RESTRAINT IN NEVER HAVING TAKEN ITS CASE ON SCHOOL TO AMERICAN PUBLIC, ALTHOUGH MANY OPPOR-
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TUNITIES HAD BEEN AVAILABLE.

3. LEWERS SAID PINOCHET THEN PRESENTED HARD-LINE POSITION, INCLUDING FOLLOWING PRINCIPAL POINTS: SCHOOL COULD BE RETURNED TO ORDER PROVIDED GOC DELEGATE WOULD HAVE "MAXIMUM AUTHORITY TO RUN SCHOOL, ASSISTED BY ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL WITH HOLY CROSS MINORITY REPRESENTATION SELECTED BY GOC; ORDER TO RECOGNIZE CURRENT FINANCIAL STATUS OF SCHOOL (SCHOOL APPARENTLY IS RUNNING ON TOW LOANS OF CONSIDERABLE SIZE); NO PRIESTS WOULD BE ALLOWED TO TEACH WHO ARE PRESENTLY IN SANTIAGO DISTRICT (ABOUT 20 HOLY CROSS PRIESTS ARE NOW IN THE DISTRICT, INCLUDING THOSE WHO TAUGHT IN SCHOOL EARLIER AND SOME SEVEN FROM LIST PRESENTED BY HOLY CROSS TO GOC LAST SEPTEMBER -- STATE 194430); NAMES OF AMERICAN PRIESTS NOW IN U.S. WHOM ORDER DESIRES TO TEACH WOULD BE SUBMITTED TO GOC DURING JANUARY, AFTER WHICH WOULD BE INVESTIGATED IN U.S. BY "SECURITY AGENCIES" BEFORE GOC DECIDES WHETHER TO ACCEPT THEM; AND SCHOOL COMMUNITY TO BE CONSULTED ON QUESTION OF RETURNING SCHOOL TO ORDER.

4. LEWERS SAID HE REPLIED TO PINOCHET WITH FOLLOWING PRINCIPAL SUGGESTIONS FOR RETURN OF SCHOOL: ORDER WOULD NAME NEW RECTOR, WOULD NOT OPPOSE NAMING OF NEW GOC DELEGATE BUT ORDER WOULD HAVE AUTHORITY AND RESPONSIBILITY FOR RUNNING SCHOOL; CHILEAN CHURCH (CARDINAL) ALSO WOULD NAME A DELEGATE; FINANCIAL MATTERS WOULD BE WORKED OUT TOGETHER; THREE PRIESTS WOULD BE NAMED FROM U.S., AND SEVERAL FROM THOSE NOW IN CHILE WHO WERE ON SEPTEMBER LIST; ORDER WOULD BE RESPONSIBLE FOR PRIESTS' RESPONSIBLE PERFORMANCE AS TEACHERS.

5. ACCORDING TO LEWERS, PINOCHET AGREED TO THESE SUGGESTIONS IN PRINCIPLE, EXCEPT FOR THAT OF CHURCH-NAMED DELEGATE, BUT SAID HE WOULD HAVE TO CONSULT ON SOME POINTS AND WOULD GIVE DEFINITIVE ANSWER TO LEWERS OVER THAT WEEKEND.

6. LEWERS WAS CALLED TO PINOCHET'S HOME SATURDAY, JAN 4, WHERE HE WAS GIVEN UNSIGNED, UNDATED LETTER FROM PINOCHET (WITH SIGNED CARD) CONTAINING POINTS OUTLINED IN PARA THREE ABOVE; LETTER OBVIOUSLY HAD BEEN PREPARED BEFORE JAN 3 MEETING WITH PINOCHET. LEWERS ASKED FOR FURTHER MEETING WITH CONFIDENTIAL

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PINOCHET, WHICH WAS SCHEDULED FOR JAN 9, LEWERS WAS TO LEAVE FOR U.S. IMMEDIATELY AFTERWARD.

7. LEWERS TOLD EMBOFF JAN 6 HE WOULD REPORT RESULT OF SECOND MEETING WITH PINOCHET. SAID HE CONSIDERED LATEST PINOCHET LETTER ANOTHER DELAYING TACTIC, THAT IF THIS ATTITUDE WAS MAINTAINED IN SECOND MEETING HE WOULD ASK DEPARTMENT AND HOLY SEE TO INTERVENE, ALSO CONSIDER MAKING THE ORDER'S CASE PUBLIC IN

U.S. AND ENTERING LAW SUIT AGAINST GOC IN CHILE.
IF LAW SUIT WERE LOST, ORDER WOULD THEN CONSIDER TURNING
SCHOOL PROPERTY OVER TO CARDINAL SILVA.

8. EMBOFF NOT HAVING HEARD FROM LEWERS FURTHER,
TALKED JAN 14 WITH LOCAL HOLY CROSS PRIEST, FATHER
FERMIN DONOSO, WHO SAID LEWERS HAD SEEN
EDUCATION MINISTER CASTRO JAN 9, INSTEAD OF PINOCHET, AND DONOSO
EXPECTED TO FOLLOW UP WITH CASTRO DURING CURRENT WEEK. ACCORDING
TO DONOSO, CASTRO HAD MAINTAINED HARD LINE, BUT THERE
HAD BEEN SOME MOVEMENT ON NAMING OF NEW GOC DELEGATE.
DONOSO SAID MATTER WAS STILL OPEN, AND HE WOULD REPORT
RESULTS TO EMBASSY.

9. COMMENT. APPEARS TO EMBASSY THAT, AS WITH PINOCHET'S
MEETING OF LAST JULY WITH FATHER HESBURGH, PINOCHET TOOK
ACCOMMODATING POSITION THAT WAS THEN CHANGED BY MINISTER
CASTRO AND GOC DELEGATE IN CHARGE OF SCHOOL AS THEY
BEGAN WORKING OUT DETAILS WITH HOLY CROSS. JUDGING FROM
COMMENT OF FATHER DONOSO, HOLY CROSS ORDER WILL NOT
ASK DEPT'S INTERVENTION OR TAKE OTHER STEPS UNTIL IT
SEES WHETHER CURRENT NEGOTIATION WITH MINEDUCATION
OFFERS PROSPECT FOR REASONABLE SETTLEMENT.

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